The AP Seminar and AP Language and Composition Courses will read the same text. The instruction and assessment will vary in the classroom per the teacher's discretion.

RATIONALE: Per College Board, “The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of well-reasoned, evidence-centered analytic and argumentative writing”. The summer reading assignment affords students the opportunity to read and absorb a non-fiction text over the summer in order to be prepared (at the onset of the school year) to share ideas on the author's development of his argument. Ultimately, the student's thinking will be translated into writing in the classroom.

SKILLS ADDRESSED and ASSESSED: As students have been studying arguments throughout their education, the concepts of central claim, evidence, audience, purpose, and use of direct text should be well developed in students. The Common Core Standards that will be explicitly assessed are as follows:

· RI.11-12.1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
· RI5.11-12.5. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his/her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.
· SL.11-12.1. Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:
I. Read and annotate Malcolm Gladwell's *The Outliers* (2008)

Please note that students are required to secure their own copies of the text. Student options include: purchasing the text or borrowing the text from a library. Since students are required to annotate and share in class in the first two weeks of class, a personal copy would be optimum.

II. Focus on the Skills Addressed and Assessed as outlined above.

Focus on Gladwell's development of his central claim and sub claims as well as his use of evidence. Be sure to consider relevance and credibility of the evidence presented by Gladwell. In addition, consider what Gladwell may have “left out” or what the weaknesses are in his arguments.

III. First day of class

Students will engage in an assessments addressing their engagement with the text as well as Gladwell's development of argument. Students will be required to both write and speak about the text.